



## NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center (JIC)

**Flood Hotline: (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2454 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily**

June 14, 2011, 1:45 p.m. CDT

### Nebraska JIC Daily Update

*\*All times are CDT, unless otherwise noted\**

**CONTACT:**

(402) 471-0900 [nema.jic@nebraska.gov](mailto:nema.jic@nebraska.gov)

## Sightseeing Interferes with Emergency Efforts

**LINCOLN, Neb.** – Earl Imler, State Emergency Operations Center operations chief, requests that the public refrain from sightseeing in areas that are flooding. “Our local emergency managers are finding it more difficult to do their jobs due to high traffic in some of the flooded areas,” said Imler. “Many emergency workers need to navigate through the flooding areas as part of their job. If they get held up by sightseers their response to emergency needs is slowed down.”

Motorists traveling through affected areas should use alternate routes, follow road signs and follow directions of law enforcement personnel. For your own safety, please respect road closures and do not go around barricades.

### National Guard Update

There are a total of 53 Nebraska National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who are supporting the flooding emergency. Included in that number are 12 Soldiers in South Sioux City working with local emergency management officials to conduct 24-hour monitoring of the levees along the Missouri River.

The National Guard has also assisted in stockpiling 1,000 sandbags with slings at Martin Field near South Sioux City and another 600 sandbags with slings at the National Guard Base in Lincoln in the event that they are needed for aerial sandbagging operations.

### Shelter Needs

The Red Cross disaster assessment teams are assessing low-lying residential areas in Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, and Washington counties to determine the possibility of flooding in these areas and needs for alternative shelter for residents. Shelter options for all Nebraska Counties along the Missouri River are also being assessed.

The Salvation Army has multiple units on stand-by to provide feeding and hydrating support for sandbag efforts at the request of the Red Cross and county emergency managers.

### Shelters open/ Red Cross

- Fort Calhoun – Fort Calhoun High School, 1506 Lincoln St.
- South Sioux City Middle School – 3625 G St.

## **Road Closures**

The Nebraska Department of Roads continues to monitor the situation along the Missouri River and reports that water has risen to the center line on the westbound outside lane of Highway 2 into Iowa. Additional information regarding road closures can be found at [www.roads.ne.gov/flood/](http://www.roads.ne.gov/flood/).

- **Hwy 12** closed east of Verdel to Niobrara State Park Recreation Road. State Park is Open. Contact: 402-857-3722
- **Hwy 12** closed one mile east of Niobrara to the Santee Spur (S-54D) contact: 402-857-3722
- **Hwy 14** is OPEN going South from the Junction of Hwy 12
- **Hwy 14/37** is closed from the junction with Hwy 12 to the Nebraska-South Dakota border (Standing Bear Bridge)
- **Hwy 30** closed between North Platte Airport to Maxwell Viaduct due to water over the road. Detour from Newberry Link (L56G) to I-80 to Maxwell (S-56A) East of Arthur. Water over the road at Milepost 193 to 194
- **I-680** into Iowa closed due to IOWA DOT closure of I-29 – Flooding
- From Iowa DOT - 6-12-11 – Iowa has a new website that has a Google-based map, updated regularly, of their flooded roads. Any detour maps for IOWA may also be found at the site.  
<http://www.iowadot.gov/floods/index.html>

## **Fire Safety**

Fuel storage tanks, including propane grill bottles, propane tanks or other fuel storage tanks threatened by flooding, should be removed or relocated to avoid free floating tanks and loss of product.

## **River Levels**

National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service as of June 14:

### **Platte River**

**Henry** – 6.3 feet, flood stage is 5.5 feet  
**Mitchell** – 9.47 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet  
**Minatare** – 7.5 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet  
**Bridgeport** – 8.52 feet, flood stage is 9.5 feet  
**Lisco** – 4.19 feet, flood stage is 4 feet  
**Lewellen** – 8.26 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet  
**North Platte** – 7.49 feet, flood stage is 6 feet  
**Brady** – 7.85 feet, flood stage is 7.5 feet

**Cozad** – 5.76 feet, flood stage is 6.5 feet  
**Overton** – 6.15 feet, flood stage is 7 feet  
**Kearney** – 5.78 feet, flood stage is 6 feet  
**Grand Island** – 5.71 feet, flood stage is 6.5 feet  
**Duncan** – 5.49 feet, flood stage is 8 feet  
**North Bend** – 5.43 feet, flood stage is 8 feet  
**Leshara** – 5.68 feet, flood stage is 8 feet  
**Ashland** – 16.72, flood stage is 20 feet  
**Louisville** – 5.25, flood stage is 9 feet

### **Missouri River**

**Verdel** – 28.81 feet, flood stage is 24 feet  
**Niobrara** – 26.27 feet, flood stage is 21 feet,  
**South Sioux City** – 33.16 feet, flood stage is 30 feet  
**Decatur** – 37.48 feet, flood stage is 35 feet  
**Blair** – 31.57 feet, flood stage is 26.5 feet

**Omaha** – 32.72 feet, flood stage is 29 feet  
**Plattsmouth** – 33.11 feet, flood stage 26 feet  
**Nebraska City** – 24.94 feet, flood stage 18 feet  
**Brownville** – 39.63 feet, flood stage is 33 feet  
**Rulo** – 24.17 feet, flood stage is 17 feet

**Flood Information - Informacion de Inundaciones** - resources and links can be found on the NEMA website at [www.nema.nebraska.gov](http://www.nema.nebraska.gov) and click Flood Information - Informacion de Inundaciones in the Quick Links. Para información de las inundaciones en Español, por favor usa estos recursos

### **Weather Update** [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

- The National Weather Service office in Valley has issued a hazardous weather outlook for east central, northeast and southeast Nebraska as well as portions of southwest and west central Iowa.
- Today's there is a risk of severe thunderstorms late this afternoon and evening across eastern Nebraska and southwest Iowa. Large hail will be the primary hazard from the potential storms, with damaging winds a possibility. If storms form, they may also produce heavy rain. A weather disturbance could move through the area this afternoon and tonight. Spotter activation may be needed.
- While scattered thunderstorms are possible across western and central Nebraska on Tuesday, the storms are not expected to be severe. Spotter activation is not expected in western and central Nebraska for Tuesday.
- Flooding along the North Platte River is expected to continue through the end of the summer, with minor fluctuation in river levels expected for the next several days.

### **Phone Contacts**

#### **Nebraska Flooding Hotline:**

Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division

Burlington Northern Santa Fe

Iowa Flooding Response

Iowa Concern Hotline

Nebraska Department of Insurance

South Dakota

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Information Center

Union Pacific Response Management Communications Center

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources

For National Flood Insurance Questions

**(855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2452**

**(800) 727-6432**

**(800) 832-5452, select No. 3**

**(515) 725-3231**

**(800) 447-1985**

**(877) 564-7323**

**(605) 773-3132 or toll free (877) 579-0015**

**(402) 996-3877**

**(888) 877-7267**

**(402) 471-7405 or (402) 471-3932**

### **List of County Emergency Managers**

### **List of Nebraska Local Health Departments**

Past news releases, facebook and twitter updates are available by selecting the icons below.



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